

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: TV COMMENTARY ON RECENT TRIALS BY YURIY ZHUKOV

SUMMARY: PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV, DURING HIS POPULAR TELEVISION TALK SHOW JULY 29, GAVE SOVIET VIEWERS DETAILED ACCOUNT, INCLUDING SOME PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLICIZED INFORMATION, ON CHARGES AGAINST FILATOV, SHCHARANSKIY AND (TO A LESSER EXTENT) GINZBURG. ZHUKOV MADE NO SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS AGAINST U.S. GOVERNMENT OR ITS EMPLOYEES, BUT DID REFER TO SLANDER CONVICTION OF U.S. CORRESPONDENTS WHITNEY AND PIPER. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET TELEVISION JULY 29 CARRIED A 45 MINUTE PROGRAM FEATURING PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV GIVING SOVIET PUBLIC POSITION ON RECENT TRIALS OF FILATOV, SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG. OPENING SHOW, ZHUKOV COMMENTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED 3,000 LETTERS FROM SOVIET VIEWERS, THE LARGEST NUMBER HE HAD EVER RECEIVED ON A SINGLE SUBJECT, RESPONDING TO THE CAMPAIGN BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES ABOUT ALLEGED SOVIET HUMAN
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RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS RESPONSE AS A REBUFF TO THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO THOUGHT THEY MIGHT DIVIDE THE SOVIET PEOPLE THROUGH THIS CAMPAIGN. ZHUKOV DEVOTED MOST OF HIS AIR TIME TO EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT FILATOV AND SHCHARANSKIY (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT GINZBURG) HAD DONE, IN THE PROCESS PROVIDING SOMEWHAT MORE INFORMA-

TION TO HIS AUDIENCE ABOUT THE CHARGES AGAINST THE CONVICTED MEN THAN THE SOVIET PUBLIC HAD RECEIVED HERETOFORE. CHARACTERIZING THE CONVICTED MEN, INCLUDING ORLOV, AS HAVING COMMITTED ANTI GOVERNMENT ACTS, ZHUKOV FURTHER IDENTIFIED FILATOV AND SHCHARANSKIY AS HAVING COMMITTED ESPIONAGE FOR FOREIGN SECRET SERVICE AGENCIES.

2. FILATOV. TURNING TO SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST FILATOV, ZHUKOV SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN RECRUITED BY A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WHILE ON TDY ABROAD. THE AGENCY, HE CONTINUED, PROVIDED HIM WITH A WOMAN OF LIGHT MORALS AND SECRETLY PHOTOGRAPHED HIM WITH HER. IT THEN TOLD HIM THAT UNLESS HE COOPERATED, THE PHOTOS WOULD BE SENT TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY. FILATOV AGREED TO COOPERATE AND WORKED FOR THIS SPECIAL SERVICE WHILE IN THE SOVIET UNION, FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED MONEY, HARD CURRENCY AND GOLD.

3. SHCHARANSKIY. ZHUKOV REPEATED EARLIER SOVIET PRESS CHARACTERIZATIONS OF SHCHARANSKIY AS A VAIN, AMBITIOUS MAN WHO, HAVING APPLIED FOR EXIT PERMISSION IN 1973 AND BEEN REFUSED FOR REASONS OF STATE SECURITY, TOOK ON THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADER. SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTIVES, ACCORDING TO ZHUKOV, WERE NOT IDEALISTIC. SHCHARANSKIY FEARED UNEMPLOYMENT WHEN HE FINALLY EMIGRATED AND DECIDED THAT IF HE DEPARTED SOVIET UNION TO ACCOMPANIMENT OF PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT HIS STRUGGLES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST SOVIET POWER HIS POSITION WOULD BE ASSURED.

4. SHCHARANSKIY'S APARTMENT THEREFORE BECAME A BASE FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND EVEN ESPIONAGE. SHCHARANSKIY WAS QUICKLY DISCOVERED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN SECRET SERVICES AND BEFRIENDED BY THEM, BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND BY AN AGENT OF A FOREIGN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, WHO WAS IN THE SOVIET UNION UNDER THE GUISE OF A JOURNALIST. (COMMENT: ZHUKOV OBVIOUSLY MEANT, BUT DID NOT SAY, TOTH.)

5. ZHUKOV THEN PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS ON THE STATE SECRETS WHICH SHCHARANSKIY IS ALLEGED TO HAVE TURNED OVER TO WESTERN INTELLIGENCE REPRESENTATIVES. ON INSTRUCTIONS OF SUCH AN AGENT,

SHCHARANSKIY TRIED TO GATHER INFORMATION ON SOVIET EXPERIMENTS IN THE FIELD OF GENETIC ENGINEERING, THE INSTITUTES INVOLVED THEREIN AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THE RESEARCH. HE TURNED OVER INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET SPACE EXPERIMENTS. HE WORKED WITH VITALIY RUBIN, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH WESTERN SPECIAL SERVICES AND WHO HAD RECRUITED DOCTOR LIPAVSKY. RUBIN LATER SENT SHCHARANSKIY A QUESTIONNAIRE WITH DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES VIA THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH OF A FOREIGN EMBASSY, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO TRANSMIT IT ABROAD VIA THE JOURNALIST-AGENT (I.E., TOTH).

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6. GINZBURG. ZHUKOV SPENT MUCH LESS TIME ON GINZBURG, MENTIONING THAT HE WAS USED BY WESTERN SPECIAL SERVICES AND THE ANTI-SOVIET EMIGRE ORGANIZATION NTS.

7. REFERENCES TO U.S. ZHUKOV CONTINUED CURRENT PRACTICE OF SOVIET MEDIA IN AVOIDING SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND ITS PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHARGES AGAINST FILATOV, SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG. HE HEAPED SCORN ON THOSE U.S. SENATORS WHO HAVE PROPOSED SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG AND THEIR ILK FOR THE NOBEL PRIZE. HE ATTEMPTED TO DENIGRATE THE PRIZE BY NOTING THAT IT HAD BEEN GRANTED TO SAKHAROV ONLY AFTER HE HAD BEGUN TO ENGAGE IN ANTI-SOVIET BEHAVIOR, AND TO SOLZHENITSYN ONLY AFTER ARRIVING IN U.S.

8. TURNING TO WHITNEY/PIPER CASE, ZHUKOV SAID

THEY HAD LEFT FOR THE U.S. BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID
TO APPEAR IN COURT TO FACE THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM.
HE NOTED THAT GAMSAKHURDIA WAS PRESENT IN COURT AND
HAD TESTIFIED THAT THE TELEVISION BROADCAST OF HIS
STATEMENT WAS CORRECT. GAMSAKHURDIA, ACCORDING TO
ZHUKOV, ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO DISAVOW
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A 1976 ARTICLE BY U.S. CORRESPONDENT DAVID SHIPLER
WHICH REPORTED THAT GAMSAKHURDIA FAVORED U.S.
MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION.
9. CONCLUDING ON A "POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK"
NOTE, ZHUKOV CITED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S JULY 13
STATEMENT THAT THERE WERE HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

10. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR ITS FAILURE DIRECTLY TO
ALLEGE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES
MENTIONED, ZHUKOV'S PERFORMANCE RANKS RIGHT DOWN
THERE WITH SOME OF LITERATURNAYA GAZETA'S MORE
TASTELESS EXERCISES IN CHARACTER ASSASSINATION AND
GUILT BY ASSOCIATION. NEVERTHELESS, ZHUKOV WAS
HOLDING BACK, SINCE HE MADE NO EFFORT TO THROW IN
PETERSON CASE, OR SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS AGAINST
U.S. DIPLOMATS LEVITSKY AND PRESEL, OR
CORRESPONDENT TOTH. SOVIET PROPAGANDA APPARATUS
APPARENTLY LIKED THE
SHOW SO MUCH IT WAS BROADCAST AGAIN DURING PRIME
EVENING VIEWING TIME JULY 31. TOON

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